

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Page 1, line 1, delete in its entirety.

Page 1, line 3, amend the title as follows:

--Operator control element, ~~in particular~~ for a multimedia system in a motor vehicle--.

Page 1, before line 6, the paragraph beginning with "The invention relates to" insert the following titles and paragraph:

**-- CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This is a U.S. national stage of application No. PCT/EP2004/0051584, filed on July 23, 2004. Priority is claimed on the following application: Country: Germany, Application No.: 103 41 016.3, Filed: September 3, 2003.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.**

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, line 18, with the following amended paragraph:

--An operator control element of this type is known from U.S. Published Patent Application 2004/132498 ~~DE 101 20 691 A1~~. This known operator control element can be rotated about an axis and can be moved along this axis of rotation and can be locked in a position on this axis. A ring encoder, which has an inner ring and an outer ring which can be rotated with respect to the inner ring, is provided for the purpose of detecting the rotary movement. A touch pad which enables a cursor to move on a display or allows text to be recognized may be arranged in the free interior space in the ring encoder. A joystick which detects a movement in an X-Y plane as a result of tilting and outputs corresponding electrical signals is arranged in the operator

control element. The joystick is also in the form of a momentary-contact switch which detects a movement of the holder as a result of the operator control element being pressed. The design of the operator control element specified in DE 101 20 691 A1 has proven to be very complicated.--

Page 1a, before line 1, the paragraph beginning with "The object of the ", insert the following title:

~~--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--~~.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1a, line 2, with the following amended paragraph:

~~--The~~ An object of the invention is therefore to specify an operator control element for a multimedia or navigation system in a motor vehicle, which operator control element is of a simplified and therefore more cost-effective design than the prior art.--

Page 4, before line 4, the paragraph beginning with "In the following", insert the following title:

~~--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--~~.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 4, with the following amended paragraphs:

--The invention is explained in greater detail in the text which follows with reference to an exemplary embodiment and the drawing, in which:

~~figure~~ Fig. 1 ~~shows the mechanical design~~ is a cross-sectional view of the operator control element according to the present invention, ~~and~~

~~figure~~ Fig. 2 ~~shows~~ is a perspective view of an operator control unit with the operator control element of Fig. 1, and according to the invention.

Fig. 3 is a top view of a vehicle seat having the operator control unit of Fig. 2.--

Page 4, before line 14, the paragraph beginning with "The operator control", insert the following title:

**--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTLY PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 14, with the following amended paragraph:

--As shown in Fig. 1, the ~~The~~ operator control element has a dial 1 which is locked to the rotary ring 5a of a rotary encoder 5 by means of a spacer ring 6. The rotary encoder 5 is a ring encoder which has a rotary ring which can be rotated about an inner ring 5b. Ring encoders of this type are known per se. Therefore, the inner ring and the rotary ring 5a ~~are have not been~~ illustrated only schematically in the drawing. Rotation is transmitted to the rotary ring of the rotary encoder 5 by turning the dial 1 about the Z-axis.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 23, with the following amended paragraph:

--A holding cylinder 4 is pressed into the stationary inner region 5b of the rotary encoder 5 by means of centering webs. A touch pad 2 which is secured by a retaining ring 3 is arranged in the upper region of the holding cylinder 4. This arrangement determines the position of the

touch pad, with the touch pad 2 not moving with the dial 1 when said dial is turned. The use of an annular rotary encoder 5 ensures the required free interior space 12 for arranging the touch pad 2.--

Please insert the following paragraph after the last paragraph on page 6:

--Fig. 3 shows a vehicle seat having a supporting platform 20, a back rest 22 and an armrest 24. The operator control unit 15 is arranged on an extension of the armrest 24.--